

that are beginning in a real way in the State of Nebraska relative to the good water supply and good conservation service. At this point, this is all I have to say, and I yield, again, to Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 450 would establish the Nebraska Water Conservation Act Fund but it would not fund that fund until July 1 of 1978. In the meantime, it would establish a nine member advisory body to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission that would have a ten month life. It would self destruct in July 1 of 1978 but its purpose is to propose rules and regulations and administrative procedures, recommendations thereto, to come back to this Legislature in December so that we might enact or amend their recommendations as we see fit next legislative session. If you will take a look at the first page of the handout I gave you, the format, you will find on the bottom of the page the two types of activities that may be constructed using 75% grants if we were to fund this fund in the future. They would include basically small water impoundments of a drainage basin of less than two thousand acres, (b) construction of terraces and sediment retention structures. As you know one of the problems in this state is that today we have less water impoundments, less acre feet behind water impoundments than we had ten years ago. We have less miles of terrace than we had ten years ago. The agriculture conservation program, the ACP program, funds are drying up at the federal level. This would provide a voluntary system whereby land owners could apply for these grants, if we establish this fund in the future, and they might receive grants of up to 75%. Where that money is going to come from, we don't know at this point. That is one of the recommendations that will come back to us next December. So this is a very small step forward but it is a small step forward on a very important program and it will leave in the driver's seat the Legislature because, in effect, we will be establishing the rules and regulations in the future next year but it does establish our legislative intent. There is an A bill accompanying it but it is only for \$11,000 in the amended form. I move for the advancement of this bill to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Bereuter a question, if he will yield.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: In your format that you passed out, I noticed down at the very bottom of the first page, construction of terraces is also a part of this, is that correct?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, that is the second part. Small structures and terraces and sediment retention structures are the only eligible items.

SENATOR CARSTEN: And would 75% of the construction of terraces be permitted under this?

SENATOR BEREUTER: It is feasible. Obviously, federal funds would be utilized first if they are available.